

# DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH



COUNTY OF SAN BERNARDINO

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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## NATIONAL LEAD POISONING PREVENTION WEEK

October 23<sup>rd</sup> through 29<sup>th</sup> is National Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Week. Did you know that lead poisoning is dangerous to the health and development of your children? A child with lead poisoning can have trouble learning, paying attention and behaving.

Based on data from a 2003-2004 national survey, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) estimates that nearly a quarter of a million children living in the United States have blood lead levels high enough to cause significant damage to their health.

In the County of San Bernardino, lead-based paint in homes built before 1978 and lead-contaminated dust and soil are the main sources of lead exposure for children. Children get lead poisoned by ingesting lead-contaminated dust, paint chips from deteriorating lead-based paint, and lead-contaminated soil. Other sources of lead include lead dust brought home on parents' clothes, certain imported ceramic pottery, painted objects, traditional home remedies, and imported candies and food products. Additionally, parents engaging in activities that require contact with lead products, such as soldering, making stained glass, and handling bullets or fishing sinkers, can place children at risk.

The only way to know for sure if a child has lead poisoning is to have the child's blood tested for lead. If your child is 1 to 6 years old, talk to your doctor about testing your child for lead at his or her next visit. Fortunately, lead poisoning is entirely preventable.

For more information, call the County of San Bernardino Department of Public Health, Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program, at 1-800-722-3777.

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